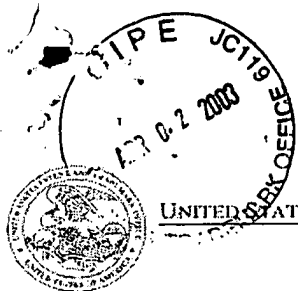


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U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER NO.	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	TECHNOLOGY ATTY. DOCKET NO.
09/381,323	Thomas Aeugle	P99,169600

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/EP98/01405

I.A. FILING DATE	PRIORITY DATE
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03/11/1998

03/19/1997

Hill Steadman & Simpson
 A Professional Corporation
 85th Floor
 Sears Tower
 Chicago, IL 60606

CONFIRMATION NO. 5121

371 ACCEPTANCE LETTER



OC000000009523975

Date Mailed: 02/20/2003

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATION UNDER 35 U.S.C 371 AND 37 CFR 1.494 OR 1.495

The applicant is hereby advised that the United States Patent and Trademark Office in its capacity as an Elected Office (37 CFR 1.495), has determined that the above identified international application has met the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 371, and is ACCEPTED for national patentability examination in the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The United States Application Number assigned to the application is shown above and the relevant dates are:

09/16/1999

DATE OF RECEIPT OF 35 U.S.C. 371(c)(1), (c)(2) and
 (c)(4) REQUIREMENTS

09/16/1999

DATE OF RECEIPT OF ALL 35 U.S.C.
 REQUIREMENTS

A Filing Receipt (PTO-103X) will be issued for the present application in due course. **THE DATE APPEARING ON THE FILING RECEIPT AS THE " FILING DATE" IS THE DATE ON WHICH THE LAST OF THE 35 U.S.C. 371 REQUIREMENTS HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE. THIS DATE IS SHOWN ABOVE.** The filing date of the above identified application is the international filing date of the international application (Article 11(3) and 35 U.S.C. 363). Once the Filing Receipt has been received, send all correspondence to the Group Art Unit designated thereon.

The following items have been received:

- U.S. Basic National Fee
- Assignee Statement
- Copy of IPE Report
- Copy of references cited in ISR
- Copy of the International Application
- Copy of the International Search Report
- English Translation of the IA
- Information Disclosure Statements

DD

- Oath or Declaration
- Preliminary Amendments
- Request for Immediate Examination

Applicant is reminded that any communications to the United States Patent and Trademark Office must be mailed to the address given in the heading and include the U.S. application no. shown above (37 CFR 1.5)

KAREN M WILLIAMS
Telephone: (703) 305-3688

PART 1 - ATTORNEY/APPLICANT COPY

FORM PCT/DO/EO/903 (371 Acceptance Notice)

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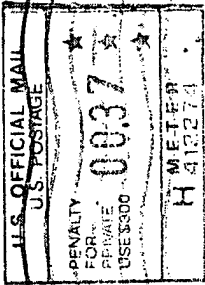
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